



SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

January 6, 2014

6 P.M.

Special Meeting

The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Present

Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo and Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Hope Kasper, Carl R. Chisem, Gerald E. Daley, James B. Streeto, Sebastian N. Giuliano, Sandra Russo Driska, Deborah Kleckowski and David Bauer; Sergeant-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna; and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

Absent

Mayor Daniel T. Drew Council Members Mary A. Bartolotta, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan.

Also Present

Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Acting Personnel Director Kathy Morey, Deputy Chief of Police Michael Timbro, Acting Parks and Recreation Acting Director Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Director of Health Joseph Havlicek, MD, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Linda Bettencourt, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Coordinator Justin Carbonella Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 4four members of the public.

Meeting Called to Order

The Acting Chair, Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call of Meeting Read

The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Acting Chair declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

Workshop Opens

Councilman Bauer asks to address questions to Guy Russo regarding the easement at 65 Sbona Drive. Director of Water and Sewer, Guy Russo explains they need a ten foot easement. Councilman Bauer states the current development is not assessed. Mr. Russo responds it is not.

Councilman Bauer asks if the right of way is the best that you would advocate. Mr. Russo responds no, they would prefer it to be at a cul de sac. Councilman Bauer states the right of way granted when the development was being developed and therefore there was no consideration and the City did not pay out. Mr. Russo responds it was a condition of the subdivision at the time; there was a cost to the developer but no cost to the City. Councilman Bauer states this is a precedence because we are not asking for any funds; Mr. Russo responds they haven't asked for compensation. Councilman Bauer states it is a bigger project but we have water on Main Street, could you give some idea of when that project will start. Mr. Russo replies if the nonreferendum borrowing proceeds, they will gout to bid and they would be into purchasing next week for a bid assignment. We can't get into the street until after the first of April. There is 180 days to do the project and it should be done by the end of summer and paving before next winter.

The Acting Chair recognizes Councilman Streeto, but he has questions for another director.

The Acting Chair recognizes Councilwoman Kasper who asks Mr. Russo regarding the easement if there was future development, do you have an alternative way. Mr. Russo responds it will come off Congdon Street; it dead ends and picks up below the housing and that would be a preferred way. If they could pick up the end of the cul de sac that would be better, but this one is half way down. Councilwoman Kasper asks there is an alternate way to do this. Mr. Russo replies they are working with Mr. Bysciewicz. Councilwoman Kasper states at the WPCA meeting it was explained about not going to referendum and she would like him to explain why it doesn't need to go to referendum. Mr. Russo responds the State Statute allows for individual projects.

Point of Information

Councilman Serra asks that he explain the project as well along with why it doesn't have to go to referendum. Mr. Russo continues the water mains on Main Street have been part of a number of projects and 3 years ago water mains south to College Street, the mains were addressed. There are two mains on Main Street, one on the west side and one on the east. The east side has a line dating back to the late 1800's and they redid those. They have been through a capital improvement projects and have looked at the essential ones. Those south on Main Street were critical and the next phase is north on Main and then up Washington Street. Having completed the first phase, they realigned and on the west side they are good and or exceeding standards. The piping in the north end of Main has had three catastrophic breaks. In the area of the soup kitchen they have

had three and they have had a couple in front of the Fire Department and on the approach to the bridge they had an event. It is 1890's and this lot did not come through with the same structural analysis and they are looking at the line going to St. Johns Square and they want to realign it and everything on the East side was done in the 1990's and this will take us from Washington Street to St Johns and replace the 12 inch main. It does not have to go out to bond. Normally they would send the projects out to referendum and there was only one that did not and that was the failing Millbrook Pump. State Statute allows individual projects under \$3 million to proceed without referendum so long as the WPCA holds a public hearing, approves it by two thirds vote and then moves it to the legislative body and if the legislative body approves with 2/3's vote, it does not need a referendum. They found out in September, Yankee Gas is coming through and they want to incorporate this during that project and Yankee Gas will pave the road.

Councilman Giuliano asks Mr. Russo, about the easement; the City is not releasing anything of value. Mr. Russo responds he cannot make a compelling argument. Councilman Giuliano states getting it back is of value to the property owner. Asking for payment is like a shake down. Mr. Russo states property owner is looking to expand the house and the City would get it back in improvements down the road. Mr. Giuliano states should there be a need for water services to the area in the future, it would be by application that would seek City water services and it would be the developer to seek it from the City. Mr. Russo responds yes; even if it was an acquisition it would be in a different location

Noted for the Record

Councilman Daley takes his seat at 6:18 p.m.

Councilman Streeto asks for Director of Public Works, William Russo. He states the Council would convey our thanks to your department for snow removal; you did a good job.

The Acting Chair asks for further questions; seeing none, he asks for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned

Councilman Bauer moves to adjourn and his motion is seconded by Councilman Streeto. The vote is unanimous and the Acting Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD
Common Council Clerk